

Name: _____ Date: _____

Invisible Architects: A College Pronoun Paradox Quiz

Sophisticated syntactical analysis requires students to deconstruct pronoun-antecedent ambiguity and case-marking nuances within complex academic and legal prose.

1. In the following excerpt from a Victorian legal text—'The beneficiary shall lose their right if they fail to disclose the debt'—analyze the usage of 'their' and 'they.' This represents:

- A. A grammatical error regarding number concord.
- B. The use of the epicene 'they' to denote a generic singular antecedent.
- C. A demonstrative pronoun used for spatial displacement.
- D. An intensive pronoun used to emphasize the subject.

2. Select the option that correctly satisfies the prescriptive requirements of case in this formal academic construction: 'The board of directors invited the researchers, _____ and his colleague, to present the findings.'

- A. he
- B. him
- C. himself
- D. his

3. In the sentence 'Whosoever logic dictates should lead must be chosen,' the word 'Whosoever' is used incorrectly because it serves as the object of the verb 'dictates.'

- A. True
- B. False

4. Identify the functional shift of the pronoun 'that' in this philosophical proposition: 'That which constitutes the essence of the thing is that.'

- A. The first is a relative pronoun; the second is a demonstrative pronoun.
- B. Both are demonstrative pronouns indicating proximity.
- C. The first is a conjunction; the second is a personal pronoun.
- D. Both are relative pronouns functioning as subject complements.

5. Which indefinite pronoun must be used to maintain formal concord in this sentence? 'Neither of the complex ideologies _____ lost its influence over the post-modern landscape.'

- A. have
- B. has
- C. are
- D. were

6. Reflexive pronouns like 'myself' can be used as subjects in formal academic writing if the author wishes to sound more authoritative (e.g., 'Myself and my colleagues conducted the study').

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- A. True
- B. False

7. Analyze the pronoun 'it' in the following sentence: 'It is essential that the theory be tested.' This is an example of:

- A. A referential personal pronoun.
- B. An expletive or dummy pronoun.
- C. An anaphoric reference.
- D. A cataphoric demonstrative.

8. In the comparison 'The results surprised the junior researchers more than _____,' which pronoun completes the sentence to indicate the results surprised the junior researchers more than they surprised the senior lead?

- A. he
- B. him
- C. his
- D. himself

9. Which sentence demonstrates the most precise use of a relative pronoun in a non-restrictive clause?

- A. The manuscript that was found in the attic changed history.
- B. The manuscript, which was found in the attic, changed history.
- C. The manuscript which was found in the attic changed history.
- D. The manuscript that, was found in the attic, changed history.

10. In the phrase 'A friend of mine,' 'mine' is classified as a double possessive (or post-genitive) because it follows the preposition 'of.'

- A. True
- B. False